

Minutes for the Howard County Commission for Veterans and Military Families

Thursday, 4 January 2018 at 7:00pm

Government Office Building 6751 Gateway Drive Columbia, Maryland

Attendance: Lisa Terry, Howard Mooney, Robert Lowell, Wanda Riddle, Greg Jolissaint, Craig Porterfield, Chris Williams, Janice Agazio, Jonathan K. Branch, Bob Moore, Bob Gillette

GUESTS: Mark Finley, Yale Stenzler, Ed Hall (American Legion), Tom Glenn, John Way, Mark Finley, Chris Yates, Terry Carpenter, Ann Meade Daniel, Scott Robertson (Gardens for Heroes), Bob Chew, Ronna Corman-Chew (Berkshire Hathaway Home Services) Janssen Evelyn (Howard County Government)

Meeting called to order at 1900 by Howard. Guests were introduced by Lisa. Anne Meade Daniel did a comprehensive presentation of Gardens for Heroes. A discussion followed. Janssen Evelyn presented an update of CR-121 which made veterans a minority as defined by the Howard County Code. Adding veterans to the CR had the unintended consequence of diluting the Minority Business Enterprise. CE Kittleman proposed CB8 2018, establishing a Veteran Owned Enterprise program to procure at least 1% veteran owned businesses. Mr. Evelyn advised that the duties of the commission would be to provide advice to the office of purchasing regarding policies and practices. Members of the commission are encouraged to be at the hearing on 16 January at 6:00pm. A discussion followed. Howard confirmed that the commission was in support of this initiative. Howard also asked that members of the commission be at the hearing on 16 January.

Bob Chew and Ronna Corman-Chew of Bob & Ronna Real Estate Office/Berkshire Hathaway Home Services made a presentation regarding a program developed for veterans about home-buying. A discussion followed.

Howard called for a review and approval of the January minutes. Jonathan corrected that Tom Glenn was also in attendance at last month's meeting/ social event. A motion for approval was done by Wanda and seconded by Chris. Future commission dates are February 1, March 1 and April 10, which is also the same day as the Veterans Resource Fair (at the North Laurel Community Center) Bob M. is tracking our \$1000.00 that the commission receives from the county. Howard asked that if anyone has ideas on how to expend the money refer to Bob.

It was concluded that we spent around \$300.00 advertising the resource fair last year. Primarily through FB ads. Howard proposed a ceiling of \$250.00 for advertising this year. Bob G. gave a detailed report regarding the veteran's monument. A discussion followed. Bob is looking for a venue to have a comedy fundraiser with a veteran's comedy group (ASAP). Also, the plaque for the veteran's monument is in place at the Lakefront. 501c status should be filed this month.

Letter of Appreciation to Mount Hebron High School Marching Band was composed and signed by Howard. Will go out this week. Howard has put together a draft for the annual support. Wants to get it to the council by the January 25. The plaque to the Oakland Mills JROTC may be presented at their JROTC Awards program. Lisa is coordinating that.

Special thanks to Allison for coordinating the Veterans Commission's social last month. Bob L. gave an update of the Veterans Court Initiative. A discussion followed. Howard stated that Lisa needs volunteers for the Veterans Resource Fair. A discussion followed. Still looking for a kickoff speaker, there will be break-out sessions. Ed Hall gave an update regarding the reserved veterans parking initiative. Howard solicited that if we know of any Memorial Day activities please contact him or Lisa, so that they can be placed on the commission's calendar. Ed stated that he knows of some. Lisa stated that she still needs to work on the Veterans Resource Guide Tool Kit. A discussion followed.

Yale shared that The Men's Club of Beth Shalom Congregation in sponsorship with American Legion Post 156 is conducting a clothing drive for MCVETS during the months of January through March.

John Way of Jiffy Lube of Pikesville and the V.A. Way made a presentation regarding the hiring of veterans for his business. Mark Finely made a presentation about his business, Angels Who Care

Health Services regarding the home health care of veterans. Chris presented a flag that was flown in honor of the commission in Afghanistan

Meeting adjourned by Howard at 8:30pm